

Section I: The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A near infrared absorption polymer comprising at least two different pendent infra-red chromophoric moieties covalently bonded to the backbone of an alkali-soluble resin, wherein at least one of the pendent infra-red chromophoric moieties ~~which~~ is an indole cyanine dye and the other of which is a benz[e]-indole cyanine dye.
2. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the resin is an alkali soluble phenolic resin.
3. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the indole cyanine dye is selected from the group consisting of
1-Butyl-2-(2-[3-[2-(1-butyl-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-ethylidene]-2-chloro-cyclohex-1-enyl]-vinyl)-3,3-dimethyl-3H-indolium hexafluorophosphate,
2-[2-[2-Chloro-3-[2-(1,3-dihydro-1,3,3-trimethyl-2H-indol-2-ylidene)-ethylidene]-1-cyclopenten-1-yl]-ethenyl]-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium chloride, or
2-[2-[2-Chloro-3-[2-(1,3-dihydro-1,3,3-trimethyl-2H-indol-2-ylidene)-ethylidene]-1-cyclopenten-1-yl]-ethenyl]-1,3,3-trimethyl-3H-indolium 4-methylbenzenesulfonate
and other salts thereof.
4. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the benz [e]-indole cyanine dye is selected from the group consisting of
2-[2-[2-Chloro-3-[2-(3-ethyl-1,3-dihydro-1,1-dimethyl-2H-benzo[e]indol-2-ylidene)-ethylidene]-1-cyclohexen-1-yl]-ethenyl]-3-ethyl-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benzo[e]indolium tetrafluoroborate, or
3-Butyl-2-(2-[3-[2-(3-butyl-1,1-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-benzo[e]indol-2-ylidene)-ethylidene]-2-chloro-cyclohex-1-enyl]-vinyl)-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benzo[e]indolium hexafluorophosphate, and other salts thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the number ratio of indole cyanine dye to benz [e]-indole cyanine dye is comprised in the range of 1:1 to 1:5.
6. (Original) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 5, characterized in that the number ratio of indole cyanine dye to benz [e]-indole cyanine dye is about 1:1.

7. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the number ratio of total pendent IR chromophoric moieties relative to the parent alkali-soluble resin is comprised in the range from 1:50 to 1:3.
8. (Previously Presented) A heat sensitive positive working lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a substrate and a layer coated thereon, wherein the layer comprises the near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1.
9. (Previously Presented) A heat sensitive positive working lithographic printing plate precursor as defined in claim 8 wherein a dry coat weight of the coating layer comprising the near infrared absorption polymer is in the range 1.4-1.9 g/m².
10. (Previously Presented) A process of manufacture of a heat sensitive positive working lithographic printing plate precursor, said process comprising:
- a) applying to a substrate a composition in a solvent wherein the composition comprises a near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1 to form a coated substrate; and
 - b) drying the coated substrate to produce the plate precursor.
11. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a printing form from a heat sensitive positive working lithographic printing plate precursor, said method comprising: a) imagewise exposing a printing plate precursor as defined in claim 8 with a near-infrared laser emitting at between 780 nm and 850 nm; and b) developing the precursor in a developing solution to remove the exposed areas.
12. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the resin is a novolak resin.
13. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the number ratio of indole cyanine dye to benz [c]-indole cyanine dye is comprised in the range of 1:1 to 1:2.
14. (Previously Presented) A near infrared absorption polymer as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the number ratio of total pendent IR chromophoric moieties relative to the parent alkali-soluble resin is comprised in the range from 1:30 to 1:5.